

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Application No. 10/525,740
Attorney Docket No. 052178

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended for clarity and to use Markush type language. Claims 2 and 3 have been amended to more positively recite the steps.

I. The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102 Based on Tanaka et al

Claims 1-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Tanaka et al (USP 6,489,435).

The Examiner states that Tanaka et al discloses a process for producing polyamides by polymerization of a diamine component comprising 80 mol% or more of xylylenediamine and a dicarboxylic acid component employing reactants and process conditions as instantly claimed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is not anticipated by or obvious over the disclosures of Tanaka et al and request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection in view of the following remarks.

In order to anticipate, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be found in the prior art reference.

Tanaka et al does not disclose each of the operations as recited in claim 1, such as purging the inert gas inside the final polymerization reaction apparatus or the like. Further, although Tanaka et al discloses that a horizontal twin-agitator mixer, etc. may be preferably used (see col. 7, lines 17-18), Tanaka et al does not disclose the operations as claimed for controlling the viscosity.

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In the process for producing polyamide disclosed in Tanaka et al, a slurry is prepared by adding a dicarboxylic acid component to a liquid diamine component in a batch-wise manner, and then fed to a polymerization reactor. To the contrary, in the invention of independent claims 7, 23 and 24, a raw material is prepared by individually melting a diamine and a dicarboxylic acid or by forming a salt of amine and carboxylic acid in water, and then the thus prepared raw material is introduced into a reaction apparatus. Thus, the method disclosed in Tanaka et al is completely distinct from the method of the present invention.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of claims 1-32 is neither taught by nor made obvious from the disclosures of Tanaka et al and it is requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) be reconsidered and withdrawn.

II. Conclusion

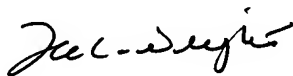
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that their claimed invention is allowable and ask that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 be reconsidered and withdrawn. Applicants respectfully submit that this case is in condition for allowance and allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any points remain at issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the local exchange number listed below.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
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